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UI - GB701
CO - cf Bob Wright
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TI - Cytofusion in Chlamydomonas-Reinhardtii.
AD - RF Matagne, Univ Liege, Dept Bot, B22,
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AB - After conjugation between Chlamydomonas gametes of
opposite mating type, a transient dikaryon is formed.
The two nuclei fuse within 4-6 hr after mating. The
young diploid zygote differentiates into dormant
zygospore competent to complete meiosis, or more rarely
(2-10% of cases) it undergoes mitosis to produce a
stable diploid progeny. We here bring genetical,
biochemical, and cytological evidence that among the
mitotic zygotes, a large proportion of them undergo
cytokinesis without fusion of the nuclei - a process
that has been termed "cytofusion." By using appropriate
genetic markers, haploid cytoductants that possess the
nuclear genotype of one parent and the chloroplast
marker of the other parent can easily be isolated.
Genetical analysis and hybridization experiments
moreover show that many haploid cytoductants transmit
the chloroplast DNA molecules of both parents and that,
as in diploids, these DNA copies occasionally recombine.
This process of cytofusion extends the life cycle of
Chlamydomonas and provides new tools for its genetic
analysis.

SO - Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1991 AUG;88(16):7447-7450

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Dear Dr. Matagne

Your paper reminded me of some similar work on
yeast about 35 years ago.

Bob Wright was a brilliant Ph. D. student from
Australia, for whom I had great admiration. Unfortunately
his career was cut short by an auto accident
on an icy road en route to visit C.C. Lindegren.

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Best wishes
Joshua Lederberg